

CPT A. Heather Coyne is the NGO and International Organization Liaison Officer for the NATO Training Mission, (NTM-A). This position was created by LTG Caldwell, the commanding general of NTM-A, to open channels of communication between NTM-A and Afghan and international NGOs, as well as International Organizations. The goal is to ensure that Afghan civil society can play a role in shaping the training and reform of the Afghan National Security Forces, making them more accountable and responsive to the communities they serve.

In her civilian job, Coyne is a senior program officer in the Center for Mediation and Conflict Resolution where she worked to craft integrated strategies to address active violent conflicts and develop best practices and conflict management tools for practitioners. Coyne also coordinated the Institute's Arab-Israeli Conflict Team. She was the chief of party for the Institute's activities in Iraq in 2003-2005. She previously served fifteen months in Iraq as a U.S. Army Reserve civil affairs officer, assigned to the Coalition Provisional Authority as the civil society officer for the Baghdad region. Her role was to promote the establishment and growth of indigenous Iraqi non-governmental organizations, professional societies and local citizens' committees to support the reestablishment of civil society.

Prior to the Iraq deployment, she spent sixteen months studying Arabic at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California. Coyne worked for four years at the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in the National Security Division, where she managed OMB's review of federal programs to combat terrorism, defend against weapons of mass destruction and protect critical infrastructure. In coordination with the National Security Council, she helped develop an interagency review process for these programs.

Coyne earned a master's in international relations and international economics from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University.